

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2006**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix,
Chair
Roberto Armijo, Community Information &
Referral Services
Maryann Beerling Thomas, New Arizona
Family
Allison Blanchard, Governor's Office
*Allie Bones, DES/CPM
*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Brad Bridwell, US Vets
Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections
Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Co-Vice Chair
Kendra Cea, APS
Linda Snidecor for Kelly Dalton, City of
Goodyear
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United
Way
*Ken Einbinder, US HUD
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember
*Theresa James, City of Tempe
Fred Karnas, Governor' Office, C Y & F
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-
Vice Chair
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Mike McQuaid, HSC
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities
*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living
Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach
Ministries
Crucita Nuñez-Ochoa, Chicanos Por La Causa
*Brenda Robbins, Department of Health
Services
*Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family
Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS
Jeff Taylor, Phoenix Rescue Mission
Jacki Taylor, ACEH
*Margaret Trujillo, Maricopa County Courts
Judie Welch, Phoenix Police Department

*Mike Whalen, Councilmember of Mesa
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,
Supervisor
Liz Morales for Ted Williams, AZ Behavioral
Health Corporation
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Susan Alling, Healthcare for the Homeless
Ray Burrell, Nova Safe Haven
Steven Capes, City of Glendale
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the Disabled
Portia Crickson, CASS
Robert Duvall, CIR
Heather Ellis, DES
Luis Epps, HomeLife Builders
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
John Gallagher, AAA
Moe Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Jami Gates, LCSA
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed
Walt Gray, St. Vincent de Paul
Riann Henkin, City of Phoenix
Mark Holleran, CASS
Gloria Hurtado, City of Phoenix
Brande Mead, MAG
Meggan Medina, AZ Dept of Housing
Carolyn Mitchell, Wells Fargo
Courtney Penniman, META/Another Chance
Sonya Pierce-Johnson, ADOC
Bill Pitt, META/Another Chance
Margaret Reiber, YWCA
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Keith Thompson, Phoenix Shanti
Kelly Wenzel, HomeBase Youth Service

**Those members neither present nor represented by
proxy.*

+Those members present by audio or video conference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Greg Stanton called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

3. Approval of the January 23, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Stanton called for a motion to approve the January 23 meeting minutes. Mike Mc Quaid, HSC, motioned to approve the minutes, Councilmember Frate seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

4. Membership Subcommittee Report

Co-Vice Chair Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, provided a summary on the Membership Subcommittee held on February 7. He commented that the subcommittee recommended that several people be sent appointment letters. He stated that Carolyn Mitchell, Well Fargo Bank and Meggan Medina, AZ Department of Housing are in the process of being appointed and are here with us today.

Co-Vice Chair Keuth commented that this committee is doing very well with representation and attendance; we have not had a problem with attaining quorum. He also stated that the Membership subcommittee would meet a couple times a year.

Chairman Stanton commented that the Continuum is a very active group and it is a good time to serve on the committee. Co-Vice Chair Keuth added that he would like to wish Fred Karnas good luck as he goes back to DC. It was also mentioned that Trinity Donovan is in the runoff for Chandler City Council. Chairman Stanton wished her good luck.

5. Planning Subcommittee Report

Chairman Stanton introduced Annette Stein, Maricopa County, who provided an update on the February 27 and March 27 meetings. Ms. Stein mentioned that the HUD application process is underway. The Planning Subcommittee reviewed the 2006 application weights and John Epler will work with agencies in need of technical assistance. Ms. Stein also stated that the resolution for supportive housing and services is on the agenda for approval by the Continuum of Care Committee. The MAG Regional Council had asked that the resolution go through the Continuum of Care Committee for approval. Ms. Stein announced that the Planning Subcommittee is planning a Homeless Outreach Team half-day workshop to take place in April or May of 2006. More details on the workshop will follow.

Elizabeth Morales thanked staff for allowing the opportunity to provide input on the HUD application weights. She suggested that it would be an advantage to assign a range of percentages to each category. She added that participation is important as well. Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family, mentioned that some agencies have a small staff and it is hard for them to get to every meeting. Staff responded that participation is based on the organization rather than a particular person. Brad Bridwell from U.S. Vets commented that it makes sense to him for agencies to target leverage with a range of percentages as well. He mentioned that the percentage option seems to be

better for more agencies. Diana Yazzie Devine said that it is concerning for small programs to have a weight category for evaluation for goal achievement. She added that some projects that rank the lowest need the services the most. She explained that there needs to be some logical way to explain caveats to programs. Elizabeth Morales replied that the APR allows for setting of those goals. Brad Bridwell asked how performance achievement would be defined. Amy St. Peter responded that we are looking at the provider's goals and compare those to the program outcomes. There was discussion amongst the members on which options would be best.

Don Keuth made a motion approve the weights as indicated below, Laura Skotnicki seconded the motion and Chairman Stanton called for a vote. There were 23 votes for yes and the motion passed unanimously.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Leverage: 1-5 Scale | Based on leverage letters and other funding sources. |
| Performance: 1-10 Scale | Goal achievement from APR, how many people stayed in permanent housing over 6 months and how many exited program and entered housing. |
| Participation: 1-3 Scale | Meeting attendance, HMIS involvement, Street Count Participation, etc. |
| AZ Eval. Project: 1-3 Scale | Participation in AZ Evaluation Project (self-sufficiency matrix) |
| Bonus: 5 Points | Re-categorize from services to housing (needs to be complete by the time the application is due to HUD) |

Ranking and Review

- Ranking and Review Committee will review, score and compare like projects.
- Tier Ranking by project type:
 1. Permanent Supportive Housing
 2. Transitional Housing
 3. Supportive Services Only Projects

| Weights | |
|---|--|
| Leverage 1-5 Scale Percent of HUD request leveraged as indicated in leverage letters. 1 pt – 25-49% 2 pts – 50%-99% 3 pts – 100%-149% 4 pts - 150%-199% 5 pts – 200% + | Performance 1-10 Scale As indicated from APR. Of project goal achievement from APR. 2 pts – 20-39% 4 pts – 40-59% 6 pts – 60-79% 8 pts – 80-95% 10 pts – 95-100% |

| | |
|---|--|
| Participation 1-3 Scale Of MAG CoC and HMIS meeting attendance and participation in the homeless street count by agency. As indicated by sign-in sheets. 1 pt – 25-49% 2 pts – 50% 3 pts – 80% + | AZ Evaluation Project 1-3 Scale As indicated from HMIS reports. 1 pt – Attended training session 2 pts – Attended training and comply with data standards 3 pts – Attended training, comply with data standards and utilize self-sufficiency matrix |
| Bonus 5 points Re-categorize budget from services to housing. | |

Annette asked that members of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness review the resolution for permanent supportive housing.

Chairman Stanton called for a motion for approval of the resolution on Funding for Permanent Supportive Housing and Services. Mr. Karnas moved to approve the resolution. Councilmember Frate seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

6. 2006 HUD Application

Chairman Stanton introduced Brande Mead, MAG staff, who provided an update on the 2006 HUD application process. Ms. Mead stated that HUD released the SuperNOFA on March 8, which is a little earlier than last year. She discussed the timeline and explained that the Valley of the Sun United Way is facilitating the ranking and review process again this year.

Maryann Beerling Thomas, NAFI asked if an agency is automatically funded if they are not called to present to the Ranking and Review Committee. Staff replied that presentations are not required for each applicant and points are not being given for presentations this year but that doesn't mean that a program is automatically funded if they are not asked to present. Ms. Morales, ABC, said that she is pleased that the committee has made this change to the review process. She also asked if the MAG Regional Council have always reviewed the application. Amy St. Peter responded that the MAG Regional Council has always reviewed the application before it is submitted to HUD.

7. Statewide HMIS Reporting System – Data Integration Reports

Chairman Stanton introduced Meggan Medina, Arizona Department of Housing, who provided a report on the Statewide HMIS Data Integration Reports. Ms. Medina said Scott Rich at Symmetric Solutions is working with her on the project. She explained that the Executive Summary was passed at the Governor's Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness. The Executive Summary is posted on the Department of Housing website and explained that the Summary is based on aggregate data from the three Continuums. Reports will be done on a quarterly basis

and determined by the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will meet quarterly and will review the data. She said that the next phase of the project would be to take the reports to the HMIS user group meetings to share the information with them.

8. 2006 Homeless Street Count

Chairman Stanton asked Ms. Mead to report on the 2006 Homeless Street Count. Ms. Mead began by saying that the street count is conducted every year in order to gather data for the consolidated grant application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Stuart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Award funds.

Ms. Mead stated that the number of homeless has decreased from 2,918 last year to 2,063 this year. Ms. Mead did mention that if the committee were to use the numbers there are caveats to the figures. She said that it is important to remember this was a point in time count and volunteers count only who they saw. These numbers do not include those in shelters and people not seen on the streets. Also the 2006 count did not include the 400 or so in the overflow shelter.

Ms. Mead provided a brief summary of the street count stating that 26 families, 44 children, 40 youth and 1,634 men made up the majority of the population. She mentioned that at the debriefing meeting it was acknowledged that there are more than 26 families who are homeless but that volunteers counted only the ones that they saw. Ms. Mead commented that there would be a big effort next year to improve the count. She continued by saying that a shelter count was also done on the same day as the street count but the shelter count results are not finalized yet. Approximately 80 percent of the shelter count results have been submitted for Maricopa County. Ms. Mead said the final results will be available in May and she will get those results to the committee.

Ms. Mead noted that that numbers for the chronically homeless increased this year to 806 men. The increase could be due to volunteers doing a better job of identifying the chronically homeless and having the police and outreach staff involved this year. She stated that they have received the HUD award at over \$20 million and that this count is a requirement for HUD funding but it also gives an overview of the population for the planning of services for the homeless.

9. Homeless Immersion Project Update

Ms. Mead began by informing the committee that DES Director, Dave Berns took part in a 24-hour homeless immersion experience last week. He spent the night at CASS and then spent the next day accessing services through the Human Services Campus as a homeless person. A debriefing session was conducted right after his experience had ended and he had expressed that he was glad that he took part in the project and it has made him consider issues related to DES services that he had not considered before. Ms. Mead asked for volunteers for the Homeless Immersion or if the Committee knew if anyone the staff should approach. Councilmember Steve Frate volunteered and said that he would like to participate in the project. Crucita Ochoa from Chicanos Por La Causa added that she would like to see a family take part in the homeless immersion experience.

10. Human Services Retreat and Survey Report

Chairman Stanton introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG staff. Ms. St. Peter announced that the Human Services Division would like to have a Regional Human Services Retreat. She said that they would like to open participation up to all the MAG Human Services committees including the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness and the Domestic Violence Council. The purpose of the Retreat will be to engage the community to look at priorities of the community. Right now she is considering a half-day meeting in February. Ms. St. Peter added that she would like to have at least one person from each of the committees to help out with planning the Retreat. The work group will start meeting in May and meet every other month to plan for the event. Crucita Ochoa volunteered to participate on the planning work group. Jacki Taylor from the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness also volunteered to participate on the work group.

Ms. St. Peter also mentioned that a human services survey was sent out to the municipalities and agencies involved with the Human Services Division and she will present results of that survey at a later meeting.

11. Call to the Audience

Mark Holleran, CASS announced that he was at a meeting hosted by Mesa United Way recently regarding the funding deficit. He stated that it is that 2/3 of the human services budget will disappear. If the \$25 million is cut it would hurt many of the agencies in Mesa and more homeless people would in turn end up at CASS. Mr. Holleran said that he would like the Continuum of Care to address the issue. Chairman Stanton suggested that people and agencies located in Mesa get involved.

12. Announcements

Mike McQuaid announced that the Human Services Campus in collaboration with CASS and UMOM is extending the operation of the overflow shelter. UMOM will serve women and families at the 1201 Jefferson location and can hold up to 60 women and 10 families at one time. CASS will serve men at the 1214 W. Madison location.

Kendra Cea, APS mentioned that they are working on an emergency evacuation plan and she wants to make sure that the homeless population is involved, especially regarding the excessive heat emergency. Chairman Stanton added that he would like the next Continuum of Care Committee meeting to focus on heat planning for the summer.

Jeff Taylor, Phoenix Rescue Mission mentioned that there are 25 children at the Human Services Campus and they need to be separated from the rest of the homeless population. He stated that there are a number of sex offenders at the Human Services Campus and maybe the Planning Subcommittee could look at addressing the sex offender issue mixing with children.

Carrie Mascaro said that the Catholic Social Services is now operating under a new name, Catholic Charities.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2006 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. here at the MAG offices in the Saguaro Room.